

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method for selectively limiting access to network files. Independent claims 7, 8 and 9 each recite the uniquely distinct features of "performing a file-selective check for access possibilities to the file outside the local network domain via the gate device checking the file sent from the local network domain for presence of a security tag before the file is sent to the external network via the at least one communication channel, and blocking the sending of the file to the external network if the security tag is found to be present in the file". Independent claim 18 recites the uniquely distinct features of "perform a file-selective check for access possibilities to a file outside the local network by checking the file sent from the local network to the connection for presence of a security tag before the file is sent to the external network via the at least one communication channel, and send the file to the external network only if the security tag is found to be present in the file". The closest prior art, Grube et al (US 5,594,796), discloses a system for controlling access to copyrighted information using security tags. The prior art fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2437

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew B. Smithers whose telephone number is (571) 272-3876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel L. Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew B Smithers/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437

Application/Control Number: 10/524,725
Art Unit: 2437

Page 4